

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 02866 231810Z  
ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT,IT  
SUBJECT: VIEWS OF DC FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECTION CHIEF GRANELLI ON  
NATO AND PCI.

REF: A. ROME 15248; B. ROME 15773

SUMMARY: IN A PRESS INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN IL TEMPO FEB. 23,  
THE DC'S NEW FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECTION CHIEF, LUIGI GRANELLI,  
STRONGLY SUPPORTS ITALY'S PARTICIPATION IN NATO AND CRITICIZES  
THE PCI AS NOT SUFFICIENTLY TRANSFORMED TO QUALIFY AS A  
"PARTY OF GOVERNMENT." WE REPORT GRANELLI'S COMMENTS INASMUCH  
AS THEY REPRESENT A SURPRISING SHIFT FROM HIS FORMER SUPPORT  
OF A QUASI-NEUTRALIST POLICY OF "EQUI-DISTANCE" BETWEEN THE  
TWO SUPERPOWERS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE PAST YEAR, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER-  
SECRETARY LUIGI GRANELLI NEVER SEEMED TO MISS AN OPPORTUNITY  
TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF AS THE DC'S LEADING EXPONENT OF A  
LEFTIST, NON-ALIGNED AND THIRD WORLD FOREIGN POLICY (REFTELS).  
IN PARTICULAR, GRANELLI PUBLICLY TOOK THE POSITION  
THAT ITALY (AND WESTERN EUROPE) OUGHT TO REALIGN ITS  
POSTURE TO ONE OF "EQUIDISTANCE" BETWEEN THE TWO SUPER-  
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POWERS. WHEN GRANELLI WAS NAMED TO HEAD THE DC FOREIGN  
RELATIONS SECTION TWO MONTHS AGO IN A REORGANIZATION  
OF THE DC DIRECTORATE, WE REGARDED HIS NOMINATION AS  
PARTICULARLY INFELICITOUS. GRANELLI'S NOMINATION  
WAS OF COURSE PART OF A FACTIONAL BALANCING ACT (HE  
IS BASE) IN PUTTING TOGETHER THE NEW DIRECTORATE.  
MOREOVER, IT WAS FELT THAT GRANELLI WOULD HAVE TO TEMPER

HIS STATEMENTS ONCE HE BEGAN TO ACT IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY. FINALLY, THE DC FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECTIONS HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN (AND CONTINUES TO BE) THE LEAST SIGNIFICANT IN THE PARTY'S ORGANIZATION.

2. GIVEN THIS BACKGROUND, AN INTERVIEW GIVEN BY GRANELLI TO US JOURNALIST WOLLEMBORG AND PUBLISHED IN IL TEMPO FEB. 23 IS OF INTEREST IN REVEALING A NEW GRANELLI, DEDICATED TO THE STRENGTHENING OF THE WEST EUROPEAN ROLE IN NATO AND UNWILLING TO ACCEPT THE PCI AS SUFFICIENTLY TRANSFORMED TO QUALIFY IT AS "A PARTY OF GOVERNMENT."

3. TURNING A FULL 180 DEGREES, GRANELLI TOLD WOLLEMBORG THAT "WE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AGAINST "THIRD WORLDISM" AND POSITIONS OF EQUI-DISTANCE BETWEEN THE TWO GREAT WORLD POWERS." HE CRITICIZED THE PCI POSITION ON NATO AS INSUFFICIENT SINCE IT WAS NOT ENOUGH MERELY NOT TO OPPOSE ITALY'S PARTICIPATION IN NATO. ITALY'S "PARTNERSHIP WITH THE US AND IN NATO SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED BY POSITIVE PARTICIPATION. GRANELLI ALSO SAID THAT PCI COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A DEMOCRATIC PARTY UNTIL IT CLEARLY STATED THAT SOCIALISM EVERYWHERE (AND NOT JUST THE ITALIAN BRAND) MUST ASSURE THE DEFENSE OF LIBERTIES.

4. COMMENT: WHILE IT WOULD BE EXPECTED THAT GRANELLI WOULD ESPOUSE MORE ORTHODOX DC VIEWS WHEN SPEAKING OFFICIALLY, THE CHANGE IN HIS ATTITUDES, PARTICULARLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOWARD THE US AND NATO, IS SURPRISING TO SAY THE LEAST. GRANELLI IS AN ASTUTE POLITICIAN, AND IT MAY WELL BE THAT HE HAS SENSED THAT HIS FORMER VIEWS ARE NO LONGER IN VOGUE. IF SO, GRANELLI'S INTERVIEW MAY REFLECT THE HARDENING OF THE DC'S POSITION AGAINST COMPROMISE WITH THE PCI THAT WE HAVE NOTED IN OTHER AREAS. BEAUDRY

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## Message Attributes

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